

EMERGENCY

CONTACT

During work hours:

0800-1700

Monday-Friday

From the U.S.:

011 36 1 475-4164

In Hungary:

(061) 475-4164

After work hours:

1700-0800

Weekends & Holidays

From the U.S.:

011 36 1 475-4400

In Hungary:

(061) 475-4400

ACS Newsletter

October/November 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1



A Message from Chargé d'Affaires M. André Goodfriend:

Wherever Americans live, they form a community – a community with many interests and backgrounds reflecting the diversity that has so enriched the American people. In many ways, one can tell the nature of a government by the way in which it relates to its people. We at the U.S. embassy in Budapest strive to be an engaged member of the American community in Budapest, offering the best consular service possible to U.S. citizens residing here. Having lived abroad as a private citizen, and serving abroad now as a representative of the U.S. government, I often challenge myself with the question – What would I like my government to do for me? Keeping the lines of communication open, and ensuring that we are in touch with the interests and needs of the community is one way to keep this

question always on our minds, and try to be as responsive and forward looking as possible. With the launch of this newsletter, we hope to play an even greater role as a valued partner of the American community in Hungary. It is an honor for us to represent the U.S. government here, and we never want to forget the people we serve.

American Citizen Services

The American Citizen Services Unit has an Appointment System for all services, including passport renewals, extra passport pages, birth registrations, notarial services, and general inquiries.

Please make an appointment before you visit the Consular Section. Beginning July 1st, 2009, for non-emergency matters, only customers

with appointments will be admitted into the Consular Section. Appointments may be made at any time via the link below or by phone

(36 -1) 475- 4164

Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and Friday from

9:00 am to 12:00 noon. For details, or to make an appointment, please follow this link:

[Make an Appointment!](#)

To make an appointment regarding Social Security benefits please call (36-1) 475-4453 on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday from 3:00 – 4:30 pm only.

Greetings from CDA	1
ACS	1
STEP	2
Travel Alerts	2
U.S. Elections & Expats	2
Other Visas	3
Passport Facts	3
Falls Into Fall	3
Halloween in Hun-	4
Contact us	4
Hungary & Travel	5
Holidays	5
Additional Services	5
Fun Facts	6

How to use STEP Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

What is STEP?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service that allows U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

You can always log on to the STEP website by clicking

[right here](#)

Benefits of Enrolling in STEP:

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in

your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.

- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.



*“Change will not come
if we wait for some other
person or some other time. We
are the ones we've been waiting
for. We are the change that we
seek.”
-Barack Obama*

Your Destination and You

The State Department's Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management (ACS) administers the Consular Information Program, which informs the public of conditions abroad that may affect their safety and security. Country Specific Information, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings are vital parts of this program.

We provide Country Specific Informa-

tion for every country of the world. You will find the location of the U.S. embassy and

*“Stay Informed,
Stay Connected, Stay Safe!”*

any consulates in the country information about whether you need a visa,

crime and security information, health and medical considera-

tions, drug penalties, localized hot spots and more. This is a good place to start learning about potential travel destinations.

U.S. Elections and Expats

Attention U.S. Citizen Voters:

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) recommends that all citizens submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to their local election official in January of each year and every time they change their e-mail or mailing address. To register to vote in your jurisdiction, please follow the instructions on the [FVAP web site](#).

If you would like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process, please contact [FVAP](#): 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584 at vote@fvap.gov.

Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed on the Toll-free International Phone Numbers page. The Voting Assistance Officer at

U.S. Embassy Budapest is also always available to answer questions about absentee voting. If you have questions about voting, please contact the Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest at +36 1 475 4400, or send an e-mail to VoteBudapest@state.gov.

Applying for a Visa

Do you have any friends who want to visit the United States of America?

Hungary is a visa waiver country, so Hungarians who want to travel for tourism purposes are eligible to apply for the [ESTA](#) program here.

Hungarian citizens intending to visit the United States for tourism or business for up to 90 days are eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) .

Hungarians traveling for other purposes and citizens of non-visa waiver countries need to apply for a visa. Follow [this link](#) to find information on a

multitude of visas.

On [this page](#), you will also find links to the Embassy Facebook page, information about the current exchange rate between HUF and USD, and Frequently Asked Questions.

Volume 1, Issue 1



Statue of President Ronald Reagan, standing as a symbol of freedom for the peoples of Eastern Europe

Passport Facts

All routine U.S. passport requests are processed and printed in the United States. Passport renewals can normally be done in about 10 working days.

[Some of the things you'll need to bring](#)

[include](#): Your current US passport or proof of citizenship

One (1) passport photo

Fees payable via cash, check or credit card



[Forms to bring for Passport applications](#):

[DS-11](#): Never had a US Passport before

[DS-82](#): US passport, renewal only

[DS-5504](#): Legally changing your name as it appears on your passport

[DS-4085](#): Adding more visa pages to an existing passport

[DS-3053](#): Passports for minors under the age of 16

[DS-5525](#): Passports for minors in exigent circumstances.

Other things to note:

[Effective September 26, 2005](#), as an

additional security enhancement, Passport Services will no longer amend valid passports. Instead, customers requesting name changes, extension of validity for limited passports, or correction of a printing error will apply for replacement passports.

If you lose your [passport](#), a replacement passport can be issued upon presentation of proof of identity and U.S. citizenship (i.e. birth certificate, driver's license, or previous passport). In addition to the ID, one 5 cm x 5 cm (or 2"x2") [photo](#) with a light background

If you are having trouble thinking of ways to show your appreciation and giving thanks, here are a few:

1. Volunteer to get groceries for your elderly neighbor
2. Donate your time at an orphanage by making crafts or reading with the children
3. Volunteer to feed the homeless
4. Volunteer at your local animal shelter

Fall Into Fall

Although Thanksgiving is not celebrated collectively in Hungary as a nation-wide holiday, some Baptist churches across the country do observe this holiday. Thanksgiving is a day is a day of reflection, giving you the opportunity to show your gratitude and appreciation to family, friends and sometimes strangers for their selfless acts of kindness bestowed upon you over the past year.

We encourage everyone to take the

time to reflect on how a small act of

kindness made a huge difference in their day. Capture that feeling of kindness and pass it on to someone else. You never know how a small deed of compassion (holding the door open for a mom who is struggling to carry



groceries and still hold her toddler's hand; or helping an elderly person as they climb the many steps to enter the Deli metro), can be immeasurable to someone else.



Halloween in Hungary

While not an official holiday, the traditional October 31 Halloween (All Hallows Eve) celebration is much beloved by children in the United States, for whom the day is a chance to don costumes — often depicting ghosts, goblins and other “supernatural” creatures — and to collect candy and other treats from adults.

Most Americans consider Halloween a festive occasion, but its roots long predate the United States and its meaning has changed greatly over time. Even today, many other nations observe their own versions of this festival.

Throughout history, many agrarian cultures have celebrated end-of-harvest festivals. The ancient Celts celebrated Samhain on the



evening of October 31. It featured the wearing of masks and other ceremonies to ward off the spirits of those who had died during the preceding year, which

were believed to revisit the earth on that one night.

Halloween is not widely observed in central Europe, but All Hallows Day, or as it is more commonly known, All Saints' or All Souls' Day is. The “eve” and the “day” are comparable but different. Instead of dressing up in ghoulish apparel to ward off the spirits that might be revisiting the earth on the night before “All Hallows Day,” Hungarians focus on this Day of All Saints to honor the dead and then go and visit the hallowed ground upon which their past family members have been laid to rest.

Hungarians go to cemeteries with bright yellow chrysanthemums and light red votive candles

to decorate the graves of their departed. Some people even leave food and drinks for their loved ones. Like in the U.S., special masses are held in many churches all over Hungary to uphold the memory of the Christian martyrs and saints. Sometimes a parish priest will say prayers and blessings at people's gravesites.

It is a beautiful, solemn experience to visit famous cemeteries during this time of year. One in particular is Kerepesi Cemetery, coined a ‘decorative’ cemetery that contains ancient wooden graves known as ‘kopfa’ that date back to the original Magyars, and are carved boats symbolizing the journey down the river of death. Kerepesi Cemetery is also the resting place of many influential Hungarian figures.

Contact Us!

Telephone:

During office hours:

(36-1) 475-4400 (Local time: GMT +1)

After-hours emergency calls for American citizens only: (36-1) 475-4400

Facsimile:

(36-1) 475-4764

E-mail Addresses:

If you have specific questions or comments, you may wish to contact the appropriate section listed below:

American Citizen Services: acs.budapest@state.gov

Embassy Address:

Embassy of the United States of America
Szabadság tér 12
H-1054 Budapest
Hungary



Hungary and Travel

Volume 1, Issue 1

Hungary is a party to the Schengen Agreement. Your U.S passport should be valid for at least three months beyond your planned date of departure. U.S. citizens may enter Hungary for up to 90 days within each 180 day period, for tourist or business



purposes. You need sufficient funds and a return airline ticket. For additional details about travel into and within Schengen countries, please see our [Schengen fact sheet](#).

If you would like to visit Hungary for any reason other than business or tourism, or if you would like to receive a residence or work permit, please contact the Em-

bassy of the Republic of Hungary at 3910 Shoemaker Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone (202) 362-6730. Visit the [Embassy of Hungary's](#) website for the most current visa information.

Upcoming Embassy Holidays

Date	Holiday Name	Country Origin
Oct. 13	Columbus Day	U.S.
Oct. 23	Republic Day	Hungary
Nov. 1	All Saints Day	Hungary
Nov.11	Veterans Day	U.S.
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day	U.S.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	U.S./Hungary
Dec.25	Christmas Day	U.S./Hungary
Dec. 26	Christmas Day	Hungary
Jan. 1	New Year's Day	U.S./Hungary
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day	U.S.

Please note: All offices are closed during American and Hungarian holidays, as well as Saturdays and Sundays.

Additional Services

Information about [dual nationality](#) or the [prevention of international child abduction](#) can be found on our website.

For further information about customs regulations, please read our [Customs Information page](#) or visit the [National Tax and Customs Administration of Hungary](#) website.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. “
– John Quincy Adams

Restaurants/ Places Offering Thanksgiving Meals

Thanksgiving Brunch

Corinthia Hotel

Thanksgiving Dinner

Marriott Hotel

InterContinental Hotel

Kempinski Hotel Corvinus

Le Meridien Hotel



Thanksgiving Dinner & Boat Ride

Viking River Cruises

Restaurants Offering Meal Discounts on Thanksgiving

Hooters

TGI Friday's

Hard Rock Café

**** Please contact the restaurants directly for further details.**



10 Fun Facts about Thanksgiving:

1. **The first Thanksgiving was held in the autumn of 1621** and included 50 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag Indians and lasted three days. Many historians believe that only five women were present at that first Thanksgiving, as many women settlers didn't survive that difficult first year in the U.S.
2. **Thanksgiving didn't become a national holiday until over 200 years later!** Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who actually wrote the classic song "Mary Had a Little Lamb," convinced President Lincoln in 1863 to make Thanksgiving a national holiday, after writing letters for 17 years campaigning for this to happen
3. **Thanksgiving is the reason for TV dinners!** In 1953, Swanson had so much extra turkey (260 tons) that a salesman told them they should package it onto aluminum trays with other sides like sweet potatoes — and the first TV dinner was born!
4. **Presidential pardon of a turkey:** Each year, the president of the United States pardons a turkey and spares it from being eaten for Thanksgiving dinner. The first turkey pardon ceremony started with President Truman in 1947. President Obama pardoned a 45-pound turkey named Courage, who has flown to Disneyland and served as Grand Marshal of the park's Thanksgiving Day parade!
5. **Why is Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November?** President Abe Lincoln said Thanksgiving would be the fourth Thursday in November, but in 1939 President Roosevelt moved it up a week hoping it would help the shopping season during the Depression era. It never caught on and it was changed back two years later.
6. **Benjamin Franklin** wanted the turkey to be the national bird, not the eagle.
7. Americans eat **46 million** turkeys each Thanksgiving
8. Californians consume the **most** turkey in the U.S. on Thanksgiving Day!
9. The **average** turkey for Thanksgiving weighs 15 pounds
10. **Wild turkeys can run 20 miles per hour when they are scared**, but domesticated turkeys that are heavier and can't run

